Gordon Smith

Since 2001, Gordon Smith has been Director of the EcoLands Program of the Environmental Resources Trust (ERT). ERT is a national not-for-profit organization with the mission of developing markets that improve the environment. ERT has a lands program, a green power program, and a registry of greenhouse gas emission offsets. Changing land management may generate offsets by storing carbon in biomass or soil, reducing soil methane or nitrous oxide emissions, or other mechanisms. On a fee-for-service basis, the EcoLands program also designs and implements measurements of offsets created by changing land management, and audits measurements performed by others. Dr. Smith has worked with landowners to implement land management practices that sequester carbon, quantify and sell carbon sequestration, as well as identifying other opportunities to enhance and exchange rights to other ecological benefits provided by forests. A focus of ERT's EcoLands program is developing cost-effective measurement tools and contract instruments for quantifying and exchanging greenhouse gas emission offsets. The EcoLands program also works on developing markets for trading water pollution reductions. Since 1996 Dr. Smith has been Principal of EcoFor, a natural resource consulting firm. From 1996 through 2003 he worked with the Forest Stewardship Council to write guidelines for certification of forest management as sustainable, and served as the representative to FSC for the national environmental organization Environmental Defense. Previously, he established a forest management research center at the University of Washington, was the Committee Administrator of the Oregon House Human Resource Committee, and operated an architectural millwork and light construction business. Gordon Smith has a Ph.D. in forest management from the University of Washington, a Master in Public Policy from Harvard University, and a BA from Reed College. He is Rigging Committee Chair, Seattle Mountain Rescue and an active alpinist.